

Excalibur

Everything secret degenerates; nothing is safe that does not show it can bear discussion and publicity
—Lord Acton

Excalibur, founded in 1966, is the York University weekly and is independent politically. Opinions expressed are the writer's and those unsigned are the responsibility of the editor. Excalibur is a member of Canadian University Press and attempts to be an agent of social change. Printed at Daison's, Excalibur is published by Excalibur Publications.

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Just when we thought there were no dirty tricks left...

The only thing missing from this Disneyland of elections was a bag of dirty tricks, and now the scenario's complete.

Wednesday morning, three unidentified men raced through the halls of Central Square and college complex one and pasted hundreds of glowing red signs emblazoned "Vote Communist, vote ULS" on the walls.

Obviously, it was a move to discredit the United Left Slate. A stupid move, what's more, since ULS members might consider themselves socialist, but few would unreservedly consider themselves communist. The term "Communist", used in the sense of those posters, is more in line with the red-baiting McCarthyist tactics of 1950s America.

It's an odd, almost fascinating depravity. Like Donald Segretti sending out obscene letters on the stationery of political opponents, this act proves that somebody hates the ULS enough to stay awake 24

hours and race around the campus to advertise that hatred.

Another perverse wrinkle to add to a truckload of perverse wrinkles in this year's CYSF election.

For the past two weeks, orators have screamed at us from the bear-pit, posters have shouted to us from the alcoves, and campaigners have collared us in the halls.

We've changed rapidly from a campus that has to take pep pills to manage a decent yawn to a boisterous, angry, argumentative forum. And a healthy body of students has swarmed to all-candidates meetings to voice its opinions on any and all subjects.

But that's deceiving. An Excalibur poll this week indicated that a lot of people haven't been listening to Radio York, only glanced at Excalibur, and were busy drinking in Absinthe while angry candidates tore each other apart in Central Square.

For many students, the election of the college and central councils is a traditional rite which stirs emotions up for two weeks near exam time and then quiets down in time to let everyone go home for the summer.

But anyone who sticks around for courses next year is going to be affected by whoever wins the CYSF presidential election.

Take a couple of minutes to figure

out what you want to see next year.

More rock concerts? More dances? A student club that's funded sufficiently by the council so that you can join and have the money to do something worthwhile?

Do you want to see the council meet often? Do you care if it meets at all? Do you want representatives to knock on your door and tell you what happened at the last council meeting?

A number of things could happen next year. The library, for instance. What if they find they don't have enough money to keep it open until midnight, and decide to close it at 6 p.m. four days a week?

What if the opening of tenders to food caterers turns out badly and Versafood comes back as the only caterer on campus next year? Chances are resident students will be stuck with scrip again next year, anyway.

What if the ancillary services department raises the parking fees to \$40 a year for the outlying lots? It's only \$15 more, maybe, but is it worth it?

The function of CYSF is to provide a focal point for the York students in these matters.

They're the ones who are elected to hear your complaints about a teacher who just got fired because he taught well but didn't publish any books.

They're supposed to check on your student loan if you think you're being screwed. They have the budget and the contacts to speak for the students on an inter-university and a governmental level.

We've heard the candidates talking for two weeks, and a lot of the banality has turned us off, as has the rhetoric. There is a strong tendency

just to tune the whole madding crowd out and camp in our rooms with friends or studies.

But just for today, sit down and figure out which presidential or college candidates look like they can do the best job for you next year. If you're lucky, their promises may turn out to be valid and their platform may hold water.



"Mirror, mirror, on the wall..."

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Screening session for '75-'76 editor to be held from 6 to 9 tonight in Room 111 Central Square. Staff members only. Be prompt.

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Staff meeting today at 2 p.m., in the Excalibur office

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—Steve Hain—

Want a fair election? Maybe next year

By tonight it will all be over. At least for a little while. Tomorrow will come, bringing new twists and fresh slants to deal with.

But tonight... ah yes, tonight. Now we are able to relax and indulge in our vices while surrounded by our friends.

Whether it be a victory celebration or the final hurrah to a campaign that didn't quite sell, now is the time to sit back and think about the past few weeks.

Remember the nomination period. That initial excitement of throwing your hat in the ring to show how much you wanted to get involved with York.

Standing there, chock-full of enthusiasm and energy, ready to infect the campus with your spirit. Willing at the drop of a pin to defend the name of your a) cause, b) crusade, c) belief, d) vendetta or e) all of the above (circle the appropriate letter).

Then the campaigning started, and before you could say 'wham bam thank you ma'am', the shit had hit

the fan. Apparently the ULS boys were overeager and started campaigning on Feb. 24, while nominations were still open. Naturally protests were lodged, making it necessary for the election tribunal to be convened.

Following in the best Hollywood traditions, out little Watergate began to take shape. The tribunal's legality was questioned. Some said that because the tribunal's third member had not been informed of her membership until after the close of nominations, contrary to the letter of the constitution, the tribunal should be ruled invalid.

Others said it didn't matter when she was told, just as long as she had been picked before the close of nominations. Those who held the latter opinion had their views upheld.

But regardless of whether or not they were legal, the trio pushed ahead, handing down their decision to stall the ULS campaign for three days. Any violation of this would mean the dropping of the candidate(s) who had campaigned.

The constitution states that campaigning will start at the close of nominations, but that same constitution also says that the York student body must be informed, through publication, of the nomination, campaign and election dates by the chief returning officer.

These dates were announced in the February 13 and 18 Daily Bulletins. The nomination period was to be from February 3 to 28, with the campaign period to run from February 24 to March 9.

Two questions then are raised. First of all, it was said that the bulletin announcement could not be viewed as an official one. If that's the case, then no notice was ever given and the CRO has violated the

constitution. Then it was pointed out that the Daily Bulletin's editorship changed hands between the running of the two notices.

It has been said that the notice which ran February 18 contained a change in the start of the campaign date when submitted. Therefore, the two notices were identical with the exception of one date. Due to the fact that it was a brand new job and that only one fact was being changed, I contend that it is possible for this change to have gone unnoticed.

But surely someone checks to make sure that notices are run properly. And if no change in the notice was made, why run the same notice twice?

But setting all that aside, the ULS published a pamphlet commenting on the tribunal's conduct, which was judged by the trio to be campaigning. Two members of the ULS were dropped. There it ends.

Tonight marks the end of this melting pot known as a political contest, where the combatants conduct their intelligence tests upon each other, in a court that delivers but a single verdict. It becomes the glory of power versus the power of losing, graciously or otherwise.

Either way, it's still like watching black and white television; the only image you end up seeing is tainted by various shades of gray.

Hits from the past

What happened this week (give or take a day) in York's history? The Excalibur files tell all.

1969: York faculty members make Canadian history by threatening to walk out if their salary demands are not met. The faculty association had asked for an 18 per cent increase, and had been promised 10 per cent by the board of governors, when government cutbacks threatened to drop the increase down to five per cent.

The strike is averted when talks between the board and the faculty reopen, and the 10 per cent increase is re-affirmed.

1970: Plans for the new arts library (Scott Library) include a ground-floor reserve room open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

1971: "Outspoken campus personality" Mort Roodman presents a petition to CYSF calling for its dis-

solution, and brands the body a farce. One CYSF member notes that Roodman's petition gathered more names than many CYSF representatives gathered votes.

Two reps tell Excalibur after the meeting, that they are considering resigning. "I just can't take it anymore," says one.

1972: ULS presidential candidate Bryan Belfont is defeated by John Theobald (Theobald received 618 votes to Belfont's 579). Belfont demands a new election, charging that a number of polling irregularities render Theobald's victory invalid.

ULS lawyer Harry Krypto says the ULS will take whatever legal action is necessary to get a new election. (Theobald's election stood.)

1974: Anne Scotton is elected president of CYSF. She tells Excalibur, "I'm glad I won. I intend to be a very active president."

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